

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SUBJ: GOP COMMUNIQUE ON ECUADOREAN BORDER INCIDENTS; FOREIGN
MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: QUITO 0343

1. FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE
COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY JAN 18 CONCERNING
BORDER INCIDENTS WITH ECUADOR. TEXT CARRIED ON RADIO AND TV
AND FRONT PAGED IN JAN 19 PRESS.

2. QUOTE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE NO.
001-78-RF.

1ST. SINCE 1977 THERE HAVE OCCURRED DIVERSE VIOLATIONS OF
PERUVIAN AIR SPACE AND TERRITORY BY THE ARMED FORCES OF
ECUADOR, OF WHICH THE MOST SERIOUS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

--ON JULY 8, 1977, A PERUVIAN RECONNAISSANCE PATROL FOUND, IN
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THE AREA OF JIMENEZ BANDA WITHIN NATIONAL TERRITORY, A CLEARED
AREA OF 1000 SQUARE METERS, A SIGN, WITH THE PAINT STILL FRESH,
BEARING THE INSCRIPTION "LONG LIVE ECUADOR," AND A RAISED
ECUADOREAN FLAG.

--ON DECEMBER 1 OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED YEAR, A SIX-MAN PATROL OF
THE ECUADOREAN ARMY WAS INTERCEPTED IN PERUVIAN TERRITORY NEAR

THE "LLAVE" VIGILANCE POST. SAID SOLDIERS WERE RETURNED TO THE ECUADOREAN ARMY.

--SUBSEQUENTLY, IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, RECONNAISSANCE CARRIED OUT BY PERSONNEL OF THE FIFTH MILITARY REGION REVEALED THAT MEMBERS OF THE ECUADOREAN ARMY HAD CONSTRUCTED, IN PERUVIAN TERRITORY, A HELIPORT AND LODGING FOR PERSONNEL, AND HAD PLACED THERE A NEW SIGN WITH THE WORDS "ECUADOREAN FRONTIER."

--ON THE 9TH OF THIS MONTH, A HELICOPTER OF THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE VIOLATED (PERUVIAN) NATIONAL AIR SPACE AND LANDED ON THE SPORTS FIELD OF THE "LOS ENCUENTROS" VIGILANCE POST. ITS CREW, ON NOTING THE PRESENCE OF PERUVIAN TROOPS, REEMBARKED AND TOOK OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF ECUADOR.

--ON THE 10TH OF THIS MONTH, A GROUP OF UNARMED PERUVIAN SOLDIERS FROM THE "CAPITAN BEZADA" VIGILANCE POST, WHICH WAS VISITING THE ECUADOREAN VILLAGE OF MASHUCUARENTZA FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMRADESHIP WITH THE INHABITANTS OF SAID VILLAGE AND WITH ECUADOREAN SOLDIERS, AS IS CUSTOMARY AND NORMAL IN THESE PLACES, WERE THREATENED WITH DETENTION BY SAID TROOPS, FOR WHICH REASON THEY OPTED TO WITHDRAW. AS THEY WERE DOING SO, THE PERUVIAN SOLDIER OSCAR JOROMA OJAICENO WAS SACRIFICED (VICTIMADO) IN THE BACK. THIS ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF ECUADOREANS CONTRASTS WITH THE SERENITY AND THE SPIRIT OF PEACE WITH WHICH THE PERUVIAN ARMY HAS BEEN REACTING TO THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED VIOLATIONS.
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2ND. WHEN THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU, VIA THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS PREPARING TO EXPRESS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR ITS DEEP CONCERN OVER THESE INCIDENTS AND TO SUGGEST A BILATERAL PROCEDURE FOR GREATER CONTROL ON THE BORDER, THE ARMY COMMAND WAS INFORMED OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. YESTERDAY, JANUARY 17, IN A SECTOR NEAR THE MILITARY BASE AT "JIMENEZ BANDA," PERUVIAN PERSONNEL AT A VIGILANCE POST WERE ATTACKED BY ECUADOREAN TROOPS WHICH WERE REPELLED.

B. TODAY AT 10:00 HOURS AN ARMED ECUADOREAN HELICOPTER ATTACKED THE SAME VIGILANCE POST, HAPPILY WITHOUT CAUSING CASUALTIES, AND WAS REPELLED.

3RD. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS LAST INCIDENT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC CALLED THE AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR TO HIS OFFICE IN ORDER TO EXPRESS TO HIM THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU'S REJECTION OF AN ATTITUDE WHICH COMPROMISES THE RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES, WHICH CAN EFFECT THE PEACE WHICH ALL RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS MUST SAFEGUARD, AND WHICH WORKS TO THE DETRIMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY WHICH THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED

FORCES MUST, AS ITS INEVITABLE DUTY, PROTECT.

4TH. WITHIN THE SENSE OF THE PRESENT COMMUNIQUE, INSTRUCTIONS
HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE AMBASSADOR OF PERU IN QUITO. END QUOTE.

3. IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS AFTER A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT,
FONMIN DE LA PUENTE SAID THAT PRESIDENT POVEDA'S CALL TO PRESIDENT
MORALES BERMUDEZ "HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE CLARIFICATION OF SOME
POINTS OF THE SUBJECT COMMUNIQUE," AND THAT POVEDA HAD EXPRESSED
HIS INTENTION TO WORK TOWARD COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH
PERU, ESPECIALLY ON A MILITARY LEVEL, IN ORDER TO AVOID REPETI-
TION OF SUCH INCIDENTS AND TO ACHIEVE A CLIMATE OF PEACE.
DE LA PUENTE REFUSED TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THE COMMUNIQUE
ITSELF--"I BELIEVE IT IS CLEAR ENOUGH," BUT THANKED THE REPORTERS
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FOR THEIR INTEREST, ADDING, "IN THIS CASE, THE PEOPLE ARE THE
FIRST THAT MUST BE INFORMED ABOUT MATTERS OF SUCH TRANSCENDENTAL
IMPORTANCE."

4. SEPTTEL WITH COMMENTS IN PREPARATION. SHLAUDEMAM

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